

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

(1-13). (canceled).

14. (new): A method of measuring the textural similarity of images, the method comprising.

determining a statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$) between the images (i, j); and determining a textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) using said statistical dissimilarity

($d(i, j)$),

characterised by determining a perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$)

between the images and the influence of said statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$), on the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$), being dependent on a function of the perceptual dissimilarity ($\hat{d}(|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|)$).

15. (new): A method according to claim 14, wherein determining the perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) comprises:

determining quantitative measurements ($P^{(i)}, P^{(j)}$) of the textural regularity of the respective images (i, j); and

determining the difference between said quantitative measurements ($P^{(i)}, P^{(j)}$).

16. (new): A method according to claim 14, wherein the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) is a value proportional to the statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$) when the perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) is not larger than a predetermined threshold.

17. (new): A method according to claim 14 wherein the degree of influence of the statistical dissimilarity on the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) is determined in dependence on the magnitude of the perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) when the perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) is greater than a predetermined threshold.

18. (new): A method according to claim 14, wherein the textural dissimilarity $D(i, j)$ is determined according to the equation $D(i, j) = d(i, j) + \alpha \hat{d}(P^{(i)}, P^{(j)})$ where α is a predetermined scaling factor and \hat{d} is a function defined as:

$$\hat{d}(P^{(i)}, P^{(j)}) = \begin{cases} 0 & |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| \leq 1 \\ |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| & |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| > 1 \end{cases}$$

19. (new): A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for executing a method of measuring the textural similarity of images, wherein the method comprises:

determining a statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$), between the images (i, j); and

determining a textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) using said statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$),
characterised by determining a perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$)
between the images and the influence of said statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$), on the
textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) being dependent on a function of the perceptual
dissimilarity ($\hat{d}(|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|)$).

20. (new): A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 19, wherein the
method comprises determining said textural dissimilarity $D(i, j)$ in accordance with the equation
 $D(i, j) = d(i, j) + d(i, j)^{\alpha \hat{d}(|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|)}$, where α is a predetermined scaling factor and the function d is
defined as:

$$\hat{d}(|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|) = \begin{cases} 0 & |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| \leq 1 \\ |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| & |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| > 1 \end{cases}$$

21. (new): An apparatus for measuring the textural similarity of images, the apparatus
comprising:

means for determining a statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$) between the images (i, j); and
means for determining a textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) using said statistical dissimilarity
($d(i, j)$),

characterised by means for determining a perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) between the images and the means for determining the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) being operable to control the influence of said statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$) on the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) in dependence on a function of the perceptual dissimilarity ($\hat{d}(|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|)$).

22. (new): An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the means for determining the perceptual dissimilarity ($d(|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|)$) comprises:

means for determining quantitative measurements ($P^{(i)}, P^{(j)}$) of the textural regularity of the respective images (i, j); and

means for determining the difference between said quantitative measurements ($P^{(i)}, P^{(j)}$).

23. (new): An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the means for determining the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) is configured to determine the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) as a value proportional to the statistical dissimilarity ($d(i, j)$) when the perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) is not larger than a predetermined threshold.

24. (new): An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the means for determining the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) is configured to control the degree of influence of the statistical dissimilarity on the textural dissimilarity ($D(i, j)$) in dependence on the magnitude of the

perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) when the perceptual dissimilarity ($|P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}|$) is greater than a predetermined threshold.

25. (new): An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the means for determining the textural dissimilarity $D(i, j)$ is configured to determine the textural dissimilarity $D(i, j)$ according to the equation $D(i, j) = d(i, j) + \alpha \hat{d}(i, j)^{\alpha \hat{d}(P^{(i)}, P^{(j)})}$, where α is a predetermined scaling factor and \hat{d} is a function defined as:

$$\hat{d}(P^{(i)}, P^{(j)}) = \begin{cases} 0 & |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| \leq 1 \\ |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| & |P^{(i)} - P^{(j)}| > 1 \end{cases}$$